

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

and

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENTISTS

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists (NHANRS) share the common goals of promoting the responsible use of the state's natural resources, educating the public regarding the natural resource sciences, and supporting natural resource science professions in New Hampshire.

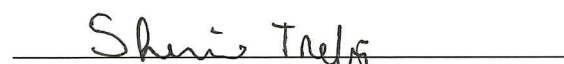
DES was established in January 1987 under the provisions of Chapter 202, Laws of 1986 and brought together programs from four previously separate state agencies that had responsibility for such matters as water and air pollution control, water supply protection, dams and flood control, and waste disposal. Today DES implements these and other programs through a variety of regulatory, compliance assistance and educational efforts.

NHANRS is a registered non-profit organization that includes wetland scientist, soil scientist, wildlife biologist, forester, and erosion control specialists in private practices, public agencies and academia. NHANRS was found to bring scientist of different disciplines together to advance environmental policy, maintain professional standards, and establish high ethical standards for natural resource scientists in New Hampshire.

Given the common goals of these entities and the benefits of cooperation, DES and NHANRS hereby enter into this Partnership Agreement. The intent of this agreement is to improve communication and collaboration between DES and NHANRS in order to achieve the stated goals.

The specific areas of cooperation are detailed in the attached work plan, which is the result of discussions between representatives of DES and NHANRS. The tasks are nonbinding and voluntary, and can be revised at any time by agreement of both parties.


Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner, DES


Sherrie Trefry, President, NHANRS

Date: 5/7/2009

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PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN

I. Timeframe: This Work Plan shall be for the period from May 7, 2009 to May 7, 2011 and may be amended from time to time by mutual written agreement of the parties.

II. Program Areas and Tasks

A. Education and Staff Development

1. DES will:

- a. Collaborate with NHANRS to provide continuing education opportunities that are timely and consistent with current and future environmental initiatives;
- b. Support NHANRS in the continued development of natural scientist certifications or licensure in keeping with regulatory requirements, and as appropriate to maintain professional standards and ethics;
- c. Participate in NHANRS meetings and events as requested; and
- d. Encourage public sector natural scientists to join NHANRS.

2. NHANRS will:

- a. Provide technical expertise to DES in order to develop sound environmental protection policies and to identify environmental indicators that will track New Hampshire's environmental health;
- b. Provide a link to the DES website on the NHANRS website.

B. Communication

1. DES will initiate communication with NHANRS through the office phone or the current NHANRS President.
2. NHANRS will initiate communication with each DES program manager as appropriate to the issue.

C. Rule and Policy Changes

1. DES will solicit input from NHANRS on rulemaking and policy changes.
2. NHANRS will:
 - a. Designate a candidate for DES appointment to the Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee;

- b. Work with DES to form a Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee workgroup to provide input to DES on development of biocriteria and rapid assessment method for New Hampshire wetlands; and
- c. Participate in rulemaking and other advisory groups, specifically as requested by DES.

III. Resources to Implement Partnership Agreement

- A. DES will provide staff support to meet the goals of this partnership, subject to budgetary limitations.
- B. NHANRS will provide staff and board time to meet the goals of this partnership, as time and budget permit.